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**REPORT**

**OF THE**  
**Medical Officer of Health,**  
**for the Year 1939,**

**BY**  
**N. E. CHADWICK, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.**



# **REPORT**

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## PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

### MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—

N. E. CHADWICK, M.D., also M.O H. of Hove.

### SURVEYOR AND SANITARY INSPECTOR—

D. V. HOWARD, M.Inst.M. & Cy.E., C.R.S.I.

### ASSISTANT SURVEYOR AND SANITARY INSPECTOR—

W. E. RUDGLEY, A.M.Inst.M. & Cy.E., C.R.S.I.

### PHYSICIAN TO THE CHILD WELFARE CENTRE—

Miss V. E. CLAXTON, M.B., B.S., London.

### HEALTH VISITOR AND SCHOOL NURSE—

Miss D. G. HEAD, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V's Certificate

# Urban District of Portslade-by-Sea

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Report of the Medical Officer  
of Health for the year 1939.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1939, which has been delayed by more pressing duties in connection with the war. In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health and in the interest of economy all extraneous matter has been eliminated, although all the usual records have been filed with a view to their availability at the conclusion of hostilities.

The general health of the town remained exceptionally and unexpectedly good, and despite the influx of evacuated children in September, 1939, the notification of infectious disease remained at a lower level than in previous years. The evacuated children apart from some initial difficulties settled down in their new surroundings and their nutrition in many cases had considerably improved by their departure—July, 1940.


The outbreak of war threw fresh responsibilities on to Medical Officers of Health, principally in connection with the Casualty Services and up to the end of the year organisation on a war footing provided many problems, most of which were surmounted by the goodwill of the personnel and officials concerned.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

N. E. CHADWICK,

*Medical Officer of Health*



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## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS, 1939.

Area (acres) 1,961

Population—Census, 1931—9,527

Resident Population for 1939—Estimated, 12,420

Inhabited houses (1921)—1,527 : Estimated 1939, 3,456

Families or separate occupiers—1939—Estimated 3,701

Rateable value—£110,012

Sum represented by a penny rate—£432

## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

	BIRTHS	Total	Male	Female
Live Births	{ Legitimate	198	106	92
	{ Illegitimate	11	4	7

Birth-rate 16·8

Stillbirths :—9. Rate per 1,000 births—43·06

DEATHS	127	60	67
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Corrected Death-rate 9·97. Standard Death-rate 9·84

Number of women dying in or in consequence of Child-birth :—

From Sepsis : none. From other causes : none.

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age—0.

Rate per 1,000 births : Total 0·0.

DEATHS from

Measles (all ages)	...	...	none
Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	none
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	none

## POPULATION.

The population of Portslade continues to increase year by year by about 500 persons, and the Registrar General's Estimate for the middle of 1939 was 12,420.

## CAUSES OF DEATH.

The number of deaths attributed to Heart Disease was 44, Cancer 18, and Apoplexy 16. There was a fall in the number of deaths due to Tuberculosis (all forms) from 10.

In the case of Portslade, the Corrected Death Rate, i.e., the Death Rate of all residents in the area irrespective of the place of death, and Standard Death Rate, which is the Corrected Death Rate, still further corrected for age and sex distribution, are practically identical, and are the same as in 1938.

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

(SEE ANNUAL REPORT, 1938).

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

#### WATER SUPPLY.

The whole of the district is supplied with water by the Brighton Corporation. The water is hard but of excellent quality, well ærated and very pure. The supply is constant.

#### DRAINAGE.

The whole of the public roads in the district are sewered by gravitation on the water carriage system.

All houses in the District are connected to the public sewers with the following exceptions :—

There are 12 houses served by 7 cesspools, of these cesspools 2 have no sewerage facilities in the neighbourhood and 2 do not, as regards the statutory distance, come within the requirements of the Act. The remaining 3 cesspools are periodically tested and found to be in good condition.

In addition there are 9 houses, situate in outlying parts of the District, provided with earth closets.

All sewerage is discharged into intercepting sewers which are under the control of the Portslade and Southwick Outfall Sewerage Board. Disposal is by means of Sea Outfall owned by the Board.

### HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

This work is carried out by direct labour by means of two "Dennis" 10 cubic yard petrol driven collecting vehicles and disposal by means of "Controlled Tipping" in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health. This system of Collection and Disposal still continues to be thoroughly satisfactory and economical.



Owing to the position of the site of the tip being in the centre of the town (although not in a closely built up area) particular care has been taken to ensure that no reason for complaint can arise as a result of the method of disposal employed.

No complaints have been received during the year as to nuisance arising from this method of disposal.

The work of collection has been efficiently carried out, the refuse being collected once weekly from the backs of the houses.

**SANITARY INSPECTION**—The Sanitary Inspector has prepared the following Annual Statement of his visits and notices :—

Houses inspected for housing defects	...	133
Houses inspected under Public Health Acts		264
Houses inspected after complaints	...	108
Premises disinfected	... ..	30
Informal notices issued (Housing & P.H. Acts)		124
Statutory notices issued	„ „ „	21
Houses found dirty	... ..	12
„ with insufficient bins	... ..	99
Drains defective	... ..	38
Closets	„ ... ..	17
Sinks	„ ... ..	35
Roofs and Gutters defective	... ..	79
Paving of Yards defective	... ..	70
Damp & Defective Walls, Ceilings, Floors, etc.		37
Cesspools defective	... ..	—
Offensive Accumulations	... ..	2

**RATS AND MICE**—The Sanitary Inspector acts as Officer under this Act, tins of poison with handbills were given free to applicants during the year.

Eradication of bed bugs.

- (1) During the year five Council Houses were found to be infested to a varying degree and three Non-Council Houses. The whole of these houses were disinfected as follows :—
- (2) (a) Council Houses by means of stripping walls supplying and spraying with special liquids for the purpose.
- (b) Private Houses, in certain rooms stripping of walls and re-distempering same, together with application of insecticide powder, disinfectant and spraying.

In the case of (a) the work has been carried out by the Council.

In the case of (b) the work has been carried out by the landlord, the Council supplying free on application, supplies of insecticide powder, disinfectants and spraying liquids.

- (3) The methods employed for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council Houses, are that, all premises and furniture of persons about to move into Council Houses are inspected prior to removal.
- (4) The work of disinfection is carried out :—
  - (a) In Council Houses by the Council.
  - (b) In Private Houses by the tenant or the landlord.

### HOUSING STATISTICS, 1939

New houses and flats erected during the year :

Total	...	...	...	...	98
With State Assistance by Local Authority	...				0
„ „ „ by other persons	...				0

### INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES.

#### 1. *Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :*

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	133
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose				190
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	...	...	...	38
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose				70
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...			1
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	131

2. *Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ...	124
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3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year :*

*A-Proceedings under section 9, 10 and 17 of the Housing Act, 1936*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	47
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(a) By Owners ... ..	9
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0

*B-Proceedings under Public Health Acts*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which informal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	98
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notices :	
(a) By Owners ... ..	11
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0

*C-Proceedings under sections 11, and 13 of the Housing Act, 1939*

(1) Number of representations, etc., made in respect of dwelling-houses unfit for habitation ... ..	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	0
(3) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders ... ..	0
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted from owners, Section 19 (2) :—	

(a) To render the house fit for human habitation	...	...	...	1
(b) As to usage other than for human habitation	...	...	...	0

*D-Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936*

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	0
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms the Closing Orders in respect of which were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	0

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936—Part IV—OVERCROWDING

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of the year	...	...	...	9
(ii) Number of families therein				9
(iii) Number of persons				71
(b) Number of new cases reported during the year				—
(c) (i) Number of cases relieved				6
(ii) Number of persons concerned				53

Total number of houses in the area is estimated to be 3456. Many of these houses in the older parts of the town are not up to modern standards, but with continued inspection remain quite serviceable.

There is no evidence of any widespread overcrowding although a considerable number of families continue to live under inconvenient and unsuitable surroundings.

FITNESS OF HOUSES—There has been no difficulty in dealing with the defects found in houses ; water supply and drainage are sufficient. All houses with the exception of 9 have water-closets.

BYE-LAWS—Are sufficient: No difficulty has arisen in their enforcement. No case of illness due to housing faults has come to my notice.



# FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS & WORKPLACES, 1930

## 1—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS & WORKPLACES.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Prosecutions (4)
FACTORIES ... .. (Including Factory Laundries).	15	1	None
WORKSHOPS ... .. (Including Workshop Laundries)	29	2	None
WORKPLACES ... .. (Other than Outworkers' premises)	0	0	None
TOTAL ... ..	44	3	None

## 2—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars.  (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prose- cutions  (5)
	Found  (2)	Remedied  (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Factories Acts :— *</i>				
Want of Cleanliness ... ..				
Want of Ventilation ... ..				
Overcrowding .. ...				
Want of drainage of floors ... ..				
Other Nuisances ... ..				
Sanitary Accommodation {	insufficient ... ..			
	unsuitable or defective			
	not separate for sexes ...			
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshops Acts :</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouses (101)				
Other offences ... ..				
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921)				
Total .. ...	0	0	0	0



## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY—There are only 2 farms in the district from which milk is supplied ; these are kept in a satisfactory condition.

There are 4 dairies in the district, 5 Cowkeepers, 1 vendor of skim milk only, 20 shops where milk is sold in bottles only ; and 19 Retailers and Dairymen who deliver milk in this district, of which 16 have premises in other districts.

MEAT—There are two Slaughter-houses in the district. These were closed immediately after the outbreak of War.

# INFECTIOUS DISEASES

## NOTIFIED CASES AND DEATHS DURING 1939.

DISEASE	Total	Under 1 yr.	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	Over 65	Re- moved Hosp'ltl	De'ths
Scarlet Fever ...	20			1	2	2	11	2	2					16	
Erysipelas ...	3									2		1		1	
Pneumonia ...	6						1			2	1	2			1
Diphtheria ...	2							1		1				2	
Puerperal Pyrexia	1									1					
	32			1	2	2	12	3	2	6	1	3		20	1

## TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1938.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M	F.
0 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 ...	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—
10 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 ...	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 ...	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 ...	3	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
45 ...	2	1	—	—	1	—	1	1
55 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	8	5	3	2	2	—	1	1









